

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new paragraph as the first paragraph on page 1 of the specification:

This application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-025073, filed January 31, 2003.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The "initial policy definition" (Fig. 5) is used when an estimated necessary capacity (estimated capacity necessary for storing all performance data to be acquired during a processing time) exceeds the free space of the storage device 200 at the first (initial) storing of the performance data in the storage device 200, in which methods for handling or processing performance data already stored in the storage device 200 are defined. Specifically, the handling method can be selected from "overwrite" and "delete". If the "overwrite" is selected, a free space necessary for storing a new file of performance data is obtained and reserved in the storage device 200 by deleting some of existing files starting from the oldest file and then the new file is written. If the "delete" is selected, all the old files (performance data) stored in the storage device 200 are deleted. In the "policy definition" (Fig. 6), statuses that can be found in a stationary state of the system are defined and actions to be taken (how to write the performance data) in each of the defined statuses are defined. When the capacity (free space) of the storage device 200 became less than a preset capacity, the operation of the storage device 200 is controlled according to "stop operation policy" which is shown in Fig. 7. First, whether the capacity of a "performance data area" (area in the storage device 200 for storing performance data) is fixed or varied can be selected. The first embodiment corresponds to the cases where the performance data area capacity is varied (No. 1 - No. 3 in Fig. 7). Further, in regard to the method for storing the performance data, a selection can be made from "wrap around" (No. 1, No. 2) and "delete" (No. 3). If the "wrap around" is selected, the performance data area is assigned a preset capacity and performance data are initially written successively in the

performance data area of the preset capacity. When the performance data area ~~[[ran]]~~ runs out of free space, new files of performance data will be written in the performance data area by deleting existing files one by one starting from the oldest file. The method, holding and preserving a certain amount of previous data, has an advantage in that some performance data of the past can be retrieved when necessary. If the "delete" is selected, performance data that have been stored in the performance data area at ~~[[the]]~~ that point are all deleted and then a new file is written. When the free space of the storage area has become too small, holding previous performance data might make it impossible to reserve a storage area for other data. In such cases, the method, deleting all previous performance data and thereby releasing a storage capacity or free space, is preferable.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Each parameter in the above expression can be estimated from data of previously conducted processes by certain algorithm, or can be inputted as external variables by an operator, or can also be inputted from the management terminal 1000. Incidentally, when the process is conducted for the first time, the steps 106 through 112 are omitted since nothing has been written in the storage device 200. Subsequently, the free space of the storage device 200 is compared with the estimated necessary capacity (S110). If the estimated necessary capacity is larger than the free space of the storage device 200 (S110: YES), continuing the process is expected to cause impossibility of writing performance data, therefore, performance data already stored in the storage device 200 are processed according to the method selected in the "initial policy definition" of Fig. 5 in order to reduce the amount of the stored performance data in advance (S112). On the other hand, if the estimated necessary capacity is ~~larger~~ smaller than the free space of the storage device 200 (S110: NO), the performance data already stored in the storage device 200 are left as they are. In either case, the performance data are acquired in minimum necessary quantities (S114) and the acquired performance data are stored in the storage device 200 (S116). Subsequently, the free space of the storage device 200 is detected again (S118) and

an operation policy corresponding to the free space is determined according to the "policy definition" (S120). Thereafter, according to the operation policy, performance data are acquired (S122), the acquired performance data are stored in the storage device 200 (S124), and the process is returned to the step S118. If the process end time came before the acquisition of the performance data (S126: YES), performance summary data are generated from the performance data acquired during the processing time (S128), and the process is ended.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 20 on page 19 with the following amended paragraph:

If the "wrap around" has previously been selected in the "stop operation policy", the performance data area is assigned a preset capacity and acquired performance data are initially written successively in the performance data area of the preset capacity, and when the performance data area runs out of free space, new performance data files will be written in the performance data area by deleting existing performance data files one by one starting from the oldest file, as mentioned before. In this case, there are two types of the performance data area: the "variable type" in which the capacity of the performance data area is variably set to the current capacity occupied at the point (S310) and the "fixed type" in which the performance data area capacity is set to the preset capacity (S314). In the "variable type", before storing a new performance data file, some of old performance data files are deleted in order to reserve a free space for the new file (S312) and then the new file is stored (S124). The "variable type" has an advantage in that previous performance data files can be preserved for a relatively long time. In the "fixed type", the capacity of the performance data area is previously set to the preset capacity (S314), and when new performance data are stored, some of existing performance data are deleted starting from the oldest file so as to reduce their volume to the preset capacity and further to reduce the volume by the size of the new performance data file to be stored (S316) and then the new performance data file is stored (S124). If the size of the new performance data file to be acquired is set as the lowest level (i.e. N level in the present embodiment) in this case, it has an advantage in that previous performance data files can be preserved more. The method has an

advantage in that even when the free space of the storage device 200 has become small, the area in the storage device 200 occupied by the performance data files can be reduced to some extent by the deletion of performance data files. The particular capacity assigned to the performance data area is maintained during the "stop operation policy"; however, when the operation policy has recovered from the "stop operation policy" (when the free space of the storage device 200 has become larger than the preset value due to deletion of other data such as user data), the fixed capacity of the performance data area which has been set for the "wrap around" is released (S320). On the other hand, if the "delete" has previously been selected in the "stop operation policy", all the existing performance data are deleted (S318).